

Confederate Memorial Pavilion  
Rivers Bridge State Park  
Ehrhardt vicinity  
Bamberg County  
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-388

HABS  
SC,  
5-EHR.V,  
2 -

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS  
SC-388  
2 -

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL PAVILION

HABS No. SC-388

LOCATION: Rivers Bridge State Park, Ehrhardt vicinity, Bamberg County, South Carolina. Latitude 97°-20" N; Longitude 90°-55" E.

PRESENT OWNER: S. C. Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism

PRESENT USE: Meeting place of the Confederate Memorial Association for the Annual Confederate Memorial Service.

#### STATEMENT OF

SIGNIFICANCE: This structure is one of the few remaining buildings of its type that was built to house religious services and also serve as a community meeting place.

### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

#### A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: The building was erected by men of the Rivers Bridge community in honor of the Confederate soldiers who died in the Battle of Rivers Bridge, fought near the site. In 1938, John D. Jenny gave the Confederate Memorial Association ninety acres of land consisting of the battle site. Additional land was later purchased by the Association bringing the total to 390 acres. The park and its structures was conveyed to the S. C. State Commission of Forestry. In 1967, the park was conveyed to the S. C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.
2. Date of Construction: c. 1876
3. Architect: Not known, but probably a joint effort of the men of the community.
4. Alterations and Additions: The outer course of cypress logs was added to give greater seating capacity at an unknown date. Future plans are to raze the structure and build a smaller replica in its place to be used as a meeting place and picnic shelter.

#### B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

1. In February, 1865, the Confederate States of America were in the last throes of the Civil War. General William T. Sherman's army, a force of 20,000 men, had traversed Georgia and started northward into South Carolina. In advance of the Federal Army was a Confederate force of 1,200 men under the command of General Lafayette McLaws. The Confederates controlled the bridges crossing the Salkehatchie River. However, Sherman's forces outflanked the defenses at the river crossing and forced McLaw to withdraw. Sherman's army then continued its march northward to Virginia, burning McPhersonville and Columbia.
2. In the spring of 1876 the men of the River's Bridge community removed the bodies of the Confederate soldiers from scattered graves and reinterred them in one large grave. A monument was erected to mark this final resting place. Construction then began on the memorial pavilion.

C. Sources of Information

1. From information compiled by the History Section of S. C. Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. The high hip roof (four sided), and framing are typical of structures of that period.
2. Condition of building: Poor - water rotted timbers, structurally unsafe.

B. Description of Exterior

1. The wood supports are black cypress, untreated and set in the ground.
2. Structural framing: oak and pine.
3. Roof: Covered with sheet iron.

C. Description of Interior

1. Rows of seats with a lecturn and small stage at the front.